UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/28
25 March 1992

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Second session
Geneva, 30 March-10 April 1992
Item 7 of the provisional agenda

DATES AND VENUE OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Letter dated 12 February 1992 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Excellency,

In May last year, the Federal Government extended to your predecessor an offer to host the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, suggesting Berlin as the conference venue. The General Assembly decided on this application on 17 December 1991.

In the meantime we have examined the preconditions which in the United Nations view, as transmitted to us, are indispensable for convening the World Conference on Human Rights in Berlin. In so doing we had to take account of the decision of the German Bundestag to transfer the seat of Federal bodies from Bonn to Berlin. Our examination of the prerequisites for a host country agreement, bearing in mind Germany's special situation following unification and also the problems arising from Berlin growing together and preparing to assume the function of capital, led us to the conclusion that the conditions described as essential by the United Nations cannot be met. It would therefore seem necessary for the United Nations to decide on a new conference venue. In our view, Geneva might be considered, as the city where such conferences normally take place, unless interest is shown by another country.

Excellency, I would be grateful if you could inform the President of the General Assembly without delay of the results of the Federal Government's investigations, in the context of the General Assembly decision of 17 December 1991, into the possibility of fulfilling the requirements of the host country agreement.

I assure you, Excellency, that the German Government remains committed to the goals of the World Conference, irrespective of the decision taken on the venue. We will make every effort to ensure the success of the conference, which is important for the international community. We regard this conference as a significant contribution to the strengthening of human rights throughout the world, and therefore subscribe wholeheartedly to its aims.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Hans-Dietrich Genscher